

Welcome to Worship

Advent 4 and Holy Innocents

21st & 28th December 2025

Welcome to St Andrew's

If you are a visitor or a newcomer, please introduce yourself. Before worship, the offering plate, Gift Aid envelopes and the Card Reader are opposite the entrance. If you would like a gluten free wafer, please let the welcomer know. We serve tea and coffee in the Church after the 10.00am service, it's a good time to get to know people.

Today's Services:

10.00am Parish Communion

Hymn: 75 Long ago

Collect: God our redeemer, who prepared the Blessed Virgin Mary to be the mother of your Son: grant that, as she looked for his coming as our saviour, so we may be ready to greet him when he comes again as our judge; who is alive and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. **Amen.**

First Reading:

Isaiah 7:10-16

¹⁰ Again the Lord spoke to Ahaz, saying, ¹¹ "Ask a sign of the Lord your God; let it be deep as Sheol or high as heaven." ¹² But Ahaz said, "I will not ask, and I will not put the Lord to the test." ¹³ Then Isaiah said, "Hear then, O house of David! Is it too little for you to weary mortals that you weary my God also? ¹⁴ Therefore the Lord himself will give you a sign. Look, the young woman is with child and shall bear a son and shall name him Immanuel. ¹⁵ He shall eat curds and honey by the time he knows how to refuse the evil and choose the good. ¹⁶ For before

Hymn: **74** Like a candle flame

¹⁸ Now the birth of Jesus the Messiah took place in this way. When his mother Mary had been engaged to Joseph, but before they lived together, she was found to be pregnant from the Holy Spirit. ¹⁹ Her husband Joseph, being a righteous man and unwilling to expose her to public disgrace, planned to divorce her quietly. ²⁰ But just when he had resolved to do this, an angel of the Lord appeared to him in a dream and said, "Joseph, son of David, do not be afraid to take Mary as your wife, for the child conceived in her is from the Holy Spirit. ²¹ She will bear a son, and you are to name him Jesus, for he will save his people from their sins." ²² All this took place to fulfil what had been spoken by the Lord through the prophet:

which means, “God is with us.” ²⁴ When Joseph awoke from sleep, he did as the angel of the Lord commanded him; he took her as his wife ²⁵ but had no marital relations with her until she had given birth to a son, and he named him Jesus.

Sermon: Revd Phil Smith

Hymns: 80 Of the Father's heart (omit v2)
88 What child is this
87 Thou who wast rich

6.30pm Carols for All in the Churchyard

Pray every day

Sunday	<p>The Maintenance Committee which looks after the fabric of the Church.</p> <p>The Pubs, Restaurants and Coffee Shops.</p> <p>St Wilfrid's Road, Windsor Terrace, Windsor Court, St Wilfrid's Court.</p>
Monday	<p>The people who maintain and enhance the Church building, the flower arrangers, brass cleaners.</p> <p>All shops and businesses who provide employment.</p> <p>The Avenue, Hippingstones Lane.</p>
Tuesday	<p>The congregation at St. Oswald's Halton and all who lead worship there.</p> <p>The Veterinary services who care for animals. The RSPCA and RSPB.</p> <p>Front Street, Middle Street, Market Place.</p>
Wednesday	<p>Concerts and Cultural events.</p> <p>For all community organisations in the village.</p> <p>Hill Street, Watling Street.</p>
Thursday	<p>The Cottage.</p> <p>All who contribute to community life through sporting activities.</p> <p>St Helen's Street, St Helen's Court, West Terrace, West End Terrace.</p>
Friday	<p>The Welcome Ministry: our outreach to newcomers and visitors, and those who regularly come into church to light a candle and say a prayer. Our team of Church Guides.</p> <p>Hotels and B & B's who serve local Tourism.</p> <p>Manor Cottages, Cookson Close.</p>
Saturday	<p>Women's Fellowship and their committee.</p> <p>The emergency services.</p> <p>Well Bank, Orchard Vale, Town Farm, Trinity Terrace.</p>

Sunday	<p>The Prayer Group.</p> <p>The farming community.</p> <p>All involved in the production of food and stewardship of the countryside.</p> <p>Stagshaw Road, Manor Park, Leazes Terrace, Leazes Lane.</p>
Monday	<p>Our Pastoral Team and Tea & Chat.</p> <p>The care of the elderly and sick in their own homes.</p> <p>Carers and good neighbours.</p> <p>Priory Gardens, Prior Terrace.</p>
Tuesday	<p>The Book Group, all who attend and those who lead.</p> <p>Those who are currently unemployed or looking for employment.</p> <p>Roman Way.</p>
Wednesday	<p>Home Group run by Max and Monica Philbrick and Paul Morris.</p> <p>All those who are lonely.</p> <p>Corchester Towers, Corchester Terrace.</p>
Thursday	<p>David our Vicar, his vision and leadership and Janet his wife.</p> <p>The Anglican Communion.</p> <p>The Archbishop of Canterbury.</p> <p>The Archbishop of York.</p> <p>Halton and Aydon.</p>
Friday	<p>Linda our Curate.</p> <p>The Diocese of Newcastle, Helen-Ann, Bishop of Newcastle and Mark, Bishop of Berwick.</p> <p>Newton and Thornbrough.</p>
Saturday	<p>Phil our Associate Priest.</p> <p>Parishes in Corbridge Deanery and the Area Dean.</p> <p>Farnley, Ladycutter Lane, Fellside.</p>

As part of our Take 5 marks of mission: We pray for Gap Supported Housing: providing accommodation and support for the homeless in Hexham and Tynedale.

As part of our Take 5 marks of mission: We pray for A Rocha UK Eco Church Programme and our care for creation.

We pray for:

- the sick especially Carolyn Holmes, Joyce Walker, John Clark, Joan Cross, Marion Thompson, Bobbie Middleton, Michael Oswell, Pauline Bennett, Jack Hay, John McNamara, Irene Scobbie and Mike Wilson.
- the family and friends of Joan March, Russell Cushing, David Andrews and Martin Kitchen (Priest).
- Years Mind: Maureen Price and Evelyn Charlton.

We wish you all a joyful and peaceful Christmas

May the joy of the angels,
The eagerness of the shepherds,
The perseverance of the wise men,
The obedience of Joseph and Mary,
And the peace of the Christ child
Be yours this Christmas.
Amen.

SUNDAY 28th DECEMBER: Just a reminder that there will only be **ONE** service on Sunday 27th December – the 10.00am Parish Communion.

Sunday 28th December

10.00am Parish Communion

Hymn: 65 Good Christians all

Collect: Almighty God, who wonderfully created us in your own image and yet more wonderfully restored us through your Son Jesus Christ: grant that, as he came to share in our humanity, so we may share the life of his divinity; who is alive and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. **Amen.**

First Reading:

Jeremiah 31:15-17

¹⁵ Thus says the Lord:

A voice is heard in Ramah,
lamentation and bitter weeping.

Rachel is weeping for her children;
she refuses to be comforted for her children,
because they are no more.

¹⁶ Thus says the Lord:

Keep your voice from weeping
and your eyes from tears,

for there is a reward for your work,
says the Lord:

they shall come back from the land of the enemy;

¹⁷ there is hope for your future,
says the Lord:

your children shall come back to their own country.

Hymn: 77 Coventry Carol

Gospel Reading:

Matthew 2:13-18

¹³ Now after they had left, an angel of the Lord appeared to Joseph in a dream and said, "Get up, take the child and his mother, and flee to Egypt, and remain there until I tell you, for Herod is about to search for the child, to destroy him." ¹⁴ Then Joseph got up, took the child and his

mother by night, and went to Egypt ¹⁵ and remained there until the death of Herod. This was to fulfil what had been spoken by the Lord through the prophet, "Out of Egypt I have called my son." ¹⁶ When Herod saw that he had been tricked by the magi, he was infuriated, and he sent and killed all the children in and around Bethlehem who were two years old or under, according to the time that he had learned from the magi. ¹⁷ Then what had been spoken through the prophet Jeremiah was fulfilled:

¹⁸ "A voice was heard in Ramah,
wailing and loud lamentation,
Rachel weeping for her children;
she refused to be consoled, because they are no more."

Sermon: Revd Phil Smith

Hymns: 58 A great and mighty wonder
 715 Lord, for the years

No Afternoon Service

Announcements

HOME COMMUNIONS FOR CHRISTMAS: If you know of anyone who is housebound and would like to receive communion over the Christmas period please let David or Linda know. Thanks.

HAY: We need some hay for the crib and the crib roof - does anyone have any we can borrow, please? Thanks.

STAMPS: Please bring your used stamps to church and put in the collecting box at the back, near the vestry door. Thank you.

CHRISTMAS FLOWERS: Would you be willing to give a donation for Christmas Flowers. If so, there are donation envelopes available at the back of church. Thank you.

MONDAY 23rd DECEMBER: From 2.00pm onwards we are looking for help to prepare the church for Christmas, to put chairs out, put candles into holders – sitting down job, put gift aid envelopes into service orders etc.

TEA & CHAT: If you would like to attend the Christmas Tea on Wednesday 14th January 2026 in the hub, please sign on the list at the back of church. There will be no charge, but numbers are required so we know how many people to cater for.

CHRISTMAS SERVICES:

Christmas Eve 24th December

- 2.00pm Crib Service: An opportunity for families to participate in the wonderful Christmas Story portrayed through the crib characters in the wooden stable.
- 6.30pm Festival of Lessons and Carols, with candlelight
- 11.00pm Midnight Communion – our atmospheric Midnight Mass as we welcome Christmas Day

Christmas Day 25th December

- 8.00am Holy Communion
- 9.00am Holy Communion at Halton
- 10.00am All Age Family Communion – a joyful Christmas morning service for all.

Contact details

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